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Jacob Copes.

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JACOB COPES.

JULY 14, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLISS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 8534.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8534) granting a pension to Jacob Copes, have considered the same and report as follows :

The claimant served as a private in a company commanded by Capt. Robert McClure, of the Fifth Regiment of the Mounted Illinois Volunteers, from the 4th to the 27th day of May, 1832, with travel pay.

In 1884 he filed a claim before the Pension Bureau alleging that during his service in the Black Hawk war he contracted disease of eyes, which has of late years caused total blindness.

His claim has been rejected on the ground that he is unable to prove that said disease originated in service.

He is seventy-eight years of age. He can not find any comrade in that war alive. One neighbor, Larkin Jones, testifies that the claimant's eyes were sound when he enlisted for the Black Hawk war, and when he returned they were diseased. The eyes continued to trouble him until about 1880, when he became blind. Other neighbors of good reputation certify to the continued existence of disease of eyes since 1845, and Dr. F. E. Marcum, of Pittsburgh, Kans., certifies that claimant is blind from a disease of eyes, the result of exposure in early life.

The claimant would be a beneficiary under the bill recently reported by this committee to grant service pensions to survivors of certain Indian wars.

In this case your committee are of the opinion that the claimant should be pensioned at a rate commensurate with his disability. He is in poor financial circumstances.

The passage of the bill is recommended.